

From: Brett Marchand March 17, 2011 7:45:58 PM  
Subject: Public Safety Sub-Committee Minutes 03/17/2011 - Approved  
To: SimsburyCT\_SafetyMin  
Cc:

D R A F T

Town of Simsbury – Public Safety Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2011

#### CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Safety Committee was called to order at 7:05 a.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were: Chair John Hampton, Board Members James Baldis, Lucille Bowman, William Ketchabaw, Geoffrey Giddings, Mickey Lecours-Beck, and Peter Ingvertsen. Also present were Burke LaClair, Michael Delehants, Tom Roy, Carol Brochu (CL&P) and Thomas Cooke.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

#### PUBLIC AUDIENCE

There were no speakers.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Giddings' motion to approve the minutes was seconded by Chief Ingvertsen. After discussion the minutes, with minor corrections, were approved.

#### UPDATES AND REPORTS

Ambulance: Mr. Delehants reported that they have completed EMT classes and that results will be available shortly.

Civil Preparedness: There was no report.

Fire: Chief Baldis reported on the large number of calls received with respect to water conditions related to flooding and to melting snow. The

Fire Department received 60 calls to help with flooded basements. Chief Baldis noted that the public needed to understand that pumping services were for emergencies only – particularly when safety concerns were involved – and that residents needed to take responsibility for minor flooding. The fire department has equipment that they can loan to residents to help with water removal. Ms. Lecours-Beck thanked the Fire Department for their assistance with an elderly disabled resident whose basement flooded and whose sump pumps had failed.

Chief Baldis also reported that in spite of barriers, drivers were ignoring signs blocking off flooded roadways and Chief Ingvertsen concurred. No rescues were required.

Police: Chief Ingvertsen reported that the Department has hired officer Tim May from Granby and that Mr. May is moving quickly through his training. He also reported that the Department is seeking national accreditation from CALEA and that auditors from CALEA will be in Simsbury from April 16-19 to audit policies and procedures and hold public hearings on the performance of the Police Department. Chief Ingvertsen noted the benefits of voluntary CALEA certification, including potential savings on insurance premiums, and noted that the Department had wholeheartedly embraced the process. Only 16 towns in Connecticut are CALEA approved. After approval, reviews will occur every three years. Mr. Cooke noted that the Police Department's attention to policies and procedures was clearly revealed in their handling of potentially difficult issues and in their strong relationships with the community.

Chief Ingvertsen also reported that the Department has hired two new Dispatchers – Christine Arujo, who has already started, and Mindy Sue Post who will start this Saturday.

Social Services: Ms. Lecours-Beck noted that the students of Henry James School had donated an AED and that all personnel in Social Services would be trained. Chief Ingvertsen and Mr. Cooke noted that AED training would be conducted for personnel throughout the Town.

Ms. Lecours-Beck reported that high school students had been a big help with snow removal – they were generally paid \$20 by residents for shoveling walkways during the difficult snow season. She is considering expanding the program to include lawn clean-up in the spring, as the program is a win-win for students and older residents.

Ms. Lecours-Beck also reported that the Red Cross shelter agreement has been under review and will soon be sent to the First Selectman for her signature. It is designed to ensure that the Town retains control over shelter arrangements. There was discussion about prior situations where

Simsbury schools were forced to open while the shelter was still open within the school for non-Simsbury residents, in part because of Red Cross involvement.

Board of Education: Mr. LaClair reported that the Fire Department and CL&P had been helpful in resolving a situation where a school generator was flooded. He reported that the recent flooding had not prevented school buses from delivering children to school.

Public Works: Mr. Roy reported on operations to fill potholes and the challenges presented by dramatic daytime-to-evening temperature changes. He added that the Town is looking into "hot patch" machinery that would result in longer-lasting repairs. He also discussed the occurrence of "frost heaves" and pointed out that these are not easily repaired.

New Business: Chief Baldis suggested that the Town approach DOT officials to investigate the feasibility of raising Route 315 where it floods, pointing out that 315 is a vital access road to Tariffville and that its flooding presents both a safety concern and major traffic problem as traffic moves to other arteries. The Committee asked the First Selectman's office to investigate the possibility and to solicit support from Representative Schofield among others. Mr. Cooke agreed to forward the recommendation to Ms. Glassman.

Mr. Roy noted that the Town was preparing a submission to the Federal Government seeking to recoup money spent in connection with recent flooding. He noted that a similar request prepared for the January snow storm had already been approved for approximately \$54,000 in disaster relief for the Town and the Board of Education.

The Committee also discussed the challenges presented to residents by the recent flooding – Mr. Roy noted that in one case, a stream jumped its bank (in part because of the residents' recreational use of the stream). The Committee discussed the advisability of responding to these situations on a case-by-case basis.

Finally, the Fire District noted that it is having its annual meeting on May 9 at 8:00 at the Main Station, at which time it will set its mill rate and budget for the coming year.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Ms. Bowman made a motion for adjournment which was seconded by Ms. Lecours-Beck. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 a.m.

